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## PATENTS

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Krivitski, Nikolai M.      Atty. Docket: 86017.000012  
Serial No.: 09/241,455      Examiner: Brian Scott Szmal  
Filed: February 2, 1999      Art Unit: 3736  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING A BLOOD FLOW  
DURING VASCULAR ACCESS DYSFUNCTION CORRECTIVE  
PROCEDURES

AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the non final Office Action mailed 25 June 2002, please consider the above referenced application amended as follows:

In the Claims:

2. The apparatus of Claim 34, wherein one of the sensor and the catheter is configured to locate the sensor with respect to the vessel to minimize wall effects.

3. The apparatus of Claim 34, further comprising a controller operably connected to the sensor to calculate a flow rate corresponding to the signal from the downstream sensor.

4. The apparatus of Claim 34, wherein the blood property change port includes an aperture for introducing a blood property variant.

5. The apparatus of Claim 34, wherein the blood property change port and the sensor are spaced by a sufficient distance to substantially mix a dilution indicator introduced through the port and the blood flow.

6. The apparatus of Claim 34, wherein the blood property change port includes one of a heat sink and a heat source for creating a local temperature gradient.

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